

IN BRIEF

University junior defeated in field of 64

The Oregon men's tennis team began play in its first event of the season at the 2004 Icy Hot/ITA Men's All-American Championships in Chattanooga, Tenn., over the weekend.

Junior Markus Schiller had the most impressive showing for the Ducks after winning his first two

matches in the singles portion last Friday. However, Schiller bowed out in the 64-team third round, losing 6-3 and 6-1 to Tennessee's Kiril Tchernevichki on Sunday.

In the first round, Schiller defeated Middle Tennessee State's Marc Boiron in straight sets, 6-1 and 6-0. In the second round, Schiller breezed past Purdue's Filip Koziell, 6-3, 6-2.

In doubles play, Bieri and Wilson defeated Nebraska's James Clow and Joel Reckewey, 8-4, to advance to the round of 32. The Oregon duo was

then taken out by New Mexico State's Benjamin Archer-Clowes and Danilo Zivanovic, 9-7.

"We competed well for the first tournament of the season," Oregon assistant coach Ross Duncan said. "Markus had a strong showing and despite the two losses, both Chad and Thomas played extremely well."

Oregon's top returning seniors, Sven Swinnen and Manuel Kost, begin action next week in the singles main draw of the tournament.

— Alex Tam

Football: Several players will miss next week's game

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according to Bellotti.

The Lakewood, Calif., native was the Ducks' most experienced defensive back and the only senior in the secondary.

"This week in practice, somebody's going to be taking his reps, and it will probably be Justin (Phinisee)," starting strong safety J.D. Nelson said.

Nelson doesn't think the loss of Tucker will hurt the Ducks' play-calling, but his knowledge of their defensive scheme will be missed.

"Everybody makes a lot of the calls," said Nelson, "but as far as communicating at key times and knowing what to do overall, he's a big part of our defense, and it's a big loss."

After the loss of Tucker, Bellotti said that it put more pressure on Nelson.

Nelson agreed, adding that all the defensive backs will have to raise

their level of play.

"I'm going to have to step my game up," Nelson said. "But I think somebody's going to step in and do a nice job."

The other starter that will miss some significant time is offensive tackle Robin Knebel. The Roseburg native suffered a high ankle sprain and will miss two to three games.

Junior wide receiver Demetrius Williams continues to battle through injury after suffering a bruised shoulder to go along with a case of turf toe. He is expected to play in the game Saturday, but may miss some practice.

"Demetrius Williams is not healthy, and that's unfortunate," Bellotti said. "In watching him in film, he is not fast. He's got turf toe and that is a problem for us. He was a guy we looked at to make some big plays."

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Clichés: If you can't beat 'em, use 'em

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Barry Bonds was at the forefront of a previously undiscovered plateau in his career.

Nope.

Barry Bonds had a career year.

Cliché.

This has been his breakout season.

Cliché.

My explanation for the rampant use of clichés in sports is that clichés are comfortable and accept-

ed. Why mess with that?

So for as much fun as we poke at them, realize that they are an essential part of sports, and without them John Madden might have to refer to Mike Vick's unlimited potential as inexhaustible aptitude, or absolute potency or vast facility.

Yikes.

Nevertheless, to conclude, here are my top five favorite clichés:

5) He can flat out play.

4) You can feel the electricity in

the air.

3) There's no "I" in team.

2) It's a game of inches.

And...

1) He always gives 110 percent.

That's right, you can't stop me, but you sure as heck might be able to contain me. 'Cause after this column I'm sure I've sealed my fate, and I think I see the faithful readers heading for the exits.

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